

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INSE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 L-03 DODE-00 SPC-03 INRE-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/GRK:LEGEORGE:HRA

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SCA - MISS WATSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, GR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE RE PANAGOULIS VISA CASE

1. FOLLOWING PARAS TWO-SEVEN ARE PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING NOON, NOV 15 RE PANAGOULIS VISA CASE. PARA EIGHT IS RELEVANT EXCERPT FROM MR. VEST'S BRIEFING SAME DATE. ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES.

2. QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT ALEXANDER PANAGOULIS HAD BEEN DENIED A TOURIST VISA TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES? ANSWER: ALEXANDER PANAGOULIS APPLIED FOR A U.S. TOURIST VISA AT OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN MILAN AND WAS FOUND INELIGIBLE.

3. QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH PANAGOULIS IS INELIGIBLE FOR A U.S. VISA?

ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW WE DO NOT NORMALLY REVEAL SPECIFIC GROUNDS ON WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL IS DENIED A VISA. HOWEVER, MR. PANAGOULIS HIMSELF HAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS A COPY OF THE LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL IN MILAN INDICATING THE SECTIONS UNDER WHICH HE WAS FOUND INELIGIBLE. IF ASKED ONLY REPLY SECIFICALLY THESE WERE: SECTION 212(A)(9), WHICH PROVIDES THAT ALIENS CONVICTED OF A CRIME OF MORAL TURPITUDE ARE INELIGIBLE FOR A U.S. VISA, AND SECTION 212(A)(28)(F)(II), WHICH EXCLUDES ALIENS

WHO ADVOCATE THE UNLAWFUL KILLING OF AN OFFICER OF AN WHO ADVOCATE THE UNLAWFUL KILLING OF AN OFFICER OF AN ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT".

4. QUESTION: IS THERE ANY PROVISION OF LAW UNDER WHICH PANAGOULIS COULD GET A VISA FOR THE UNITED STATES DESPITE HIS EXCLUDABILITY UNDER THE LAW?

ANSWER: THE LAW DOES MAKE PROVISION FOR WAIVER IN CERTAIN CASES, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE CONSULAR OFFICER AND THE DISCRETION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

5. QUESTION: DID OUR GOVERNMENT CONSULT WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE VISA FOR PANAGOULIS? WE DID NOT. WE INFORMED THE GOG THAT HE HAD APPLIED FOR A US-TOURIST VISA.

6. QUESTION: WOULD YOU REGARD THIS AS MORE OF A POLITICAL DECISION THAN A TECHNICAL DECISION?

ANSWER: OUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION WAS BASED SOLELY ON PROVISIONS OF APPLICABLE LAW.

7. QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT PANAGOULIS WAS AT FIRST GIVEN A VISA WHICH WAS LATER REVOKED?

ANSWER: A VISITOR VISA WAS GIVEN IN ERROR.

8. QUESTION: THE CASE OF MR. PANAGOULIS, WHO SAYS HE HAS BEEN DENIED A VISA, DO YOU HAVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S SIDE OF THAT STORY? DO YOU KNOW WHY HE WAS DENIED A VISA? WAS HE DENIED A VISA?

ANSWER: WHEN HE APPLIED FOR THE VISA, I AM TOLD HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECLARED INELIGIBLE FOR A VISA BECAUSE OF CERTAIN OF HIS PAST ACTIVITIES--WHICH, ALL OF THIS WAS CARRIED, I THINK, IN THE PRESS--AND I THINK YOU ARE AWARE THAT THERE IS A WHOLE LIST OF PROVISIONS WHICH GO UNDER THE RATHER DIGNIFIED TERM THAT "ALIENS CONVICTED OF A CRIME OF MORAL TURPITUDE ARE INELIGIBLE FOR A U.S. VISA". HE WAS FOUND INELIGIBLE FOR A U.S. VISA.

9. QUESTION: GEORGE, THAT SAME STATUTE, CARRIES AN EXCEPTION FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE WAY IN WHICH THAT DISTINCTION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN THIS CASE?

ANSWER: WELL, THE ONLY POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ON THE EXCEPTION--THERE ARE PROVISIONS FOR WAIVERS IN CERTAIN CASES, BUT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HE HAS NOT REQUESTED A WAIVER. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE226245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LEGEORGE:HRA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731130/aaaaawem.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE RE PANAGOULIS VISA CASE
TAGS: CVIS, GR, US
To: ATHENS ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005